

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

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----- 067258

R 032045Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2174

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 4958

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, DR

SUBJECT: SYMPTOMS OF INTERNAL STRAINS IN PRD

1. PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO DOMINICANO (PRD) IS BEING
SUBJECTED TO INTERNAL STRESSES AND STRAINS THAT AFFECT ITS
RELATIONS WITH BALAGUER GOVERNMENT AND ITS TENTATIVE FEELERS
FOR BETTER CONTACTS WITH THIS EMBASSY. SEC GEN JOSE
FRANCISCO PENA GOMEZ MADE SOMETHING OF A FUSS OVER A SHORT
DELAY UPON HIS ARRIVAL AT SAN JUAN AIRPORT NOV 23 AT
THE HEAD OF A PRD DELEGATION TO ATTEND INDEPENDENCE RALLY
SPONSORED BY PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE PARTY (PIP). AFTERNOON
PRESS THAT DAY GAVE FULL PLAY TO STORY AND TO PENA'S PROTEST
AGAINST "INDECENT TREATMENT."

2. PENA ALSO TOOK PUBLIC ISSUE WITH AMBASSADOR'S SPEECH
BEFORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN SANTIAGO NOV 21, CHARGING
THAT AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN THE
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CONSTITUTED INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL
AFFAIRS. HIS OBJECTION CENTERED ON ONE PORTION OF THE
SPEECH, WHERE WITHIN THEME OF THE GROWING INTERDEPENDENCE
OF NATIONS CONFRONTING FOOD, ENERGY AND INFLATION PROBLEMS,
AMBASSADOR FAVORABLY MENTIONED STEPS GODR WAS TAKING IN
THESE SECTORS AND EMPHASIZED US-GODR COOPERATION IN
AGRICULTURE AND IN OTHER AREAS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
TAKING EXCEPTION TO A REFERENCE IN SPEECH THAT TRANSNATIONAL
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COMPANIES HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN DEALING WITH

CURRENT WORLD PROBLEMS, PENA ACCUSED GULF AND WESTERN OF MEDDLING IN INTERNAL DOMINICAN AFFAIRS AND EXPLOITING COUNTRY.

3. ALL THIS COMES WITHIN FEW WEEKS OF MOST RECENT OVERTURE OF PRD TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH USG AND MORE PARTICULARLY WITH EMBASSY. PENA HIMSELF VOLUNTEERED RECENTLY TO AMBASSADOR, AS HAVE OTHER PRD LEADERS TO EMBOFFS, DESIRE OF PARTY TO GET TOGETHER WITH AMBASSADOR VERY SOON IN ORDER TO DEVELOP CONTACTS FURTHER.

4. OTHER RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY PARTY SPOKESMEN HAVE BEEN TO THE EFFECT THAT PRD WOULD FULLY SUPPORT GODR MEASURES IN LAND REFORM, MINIMUM WAGES AND PRICE CONTROLS WHENEVER THEY ARE IN INTEREST OF CAMPESINOS AND WORKERS. PARTY HAS GONE ON RECORD IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENTIAL ROLLBACK OF MILK PRICES AND ALL LAND REFORM INITIATIVES TAKEN BY BALAGUER. HOWEVER, PRD HAS ALSO CHOSEN THIS PERIOD TO MAKE PUBLIC (BY PAID ADVERTISEMENT) FULL TEXT OF DOCUMENT IT PRESENTED TO UN IN SEPTEMBER CHARGING BALAGUER GOVERNMENT WITH DENIAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND WITH LONG SERIES POLITICAL ABUSES.

5. THESE APPARENT INCONSISTENCIES REFLECT DIVISIONS WITHIN PRD, PRINCIPALLY OVER DESIRABILITY OF ASSOCIATING PARTY WITH REFORM MEASURES TAKEN OR ESPOUSED BY GOVERNMENT. ONE POSITION, SUPPORTED BY DISSIDENT FACTION, IS TO REMAIN IN OPPOSITION, WITHHOLDING ANY FORM OF COOPERATION OR SUPPORT, WHILE ANOTHER FACTION SEEMED TO BE ANGLING FOR AN INVITATION FROM THE PRESIDENT TO ENTER GOVERNMENT, PRESUMABLY AT CABINET LEVEL. PENA HIMSELF SEEMED TO BE AMONG THE LATTER. HOWEVER, LATEST DEVELOPMENT WAS DECLARATION BY PENA NOV 27 THAT PRD WOULD TAKE A TURN TO LEFT, TOWARD ITS "ORIGINAL REVOLUTIONARY AND ANTI-IMPERIALIST POSITIONS." IN 1975 PARTY WILL UNDERTAKE A REACTIVATION OF THE "NATIONALISTIC AND ANTI-FEUDALISTIC STRUGGLE," WORKING FOR COMPLETE LIQUIDATION OF "LATIFUNDISMO" AND FOR "NATIONALIZATION, IN WHOLE OR PART, OF FOREIGN ENTERPRISES," ALTHOUGH PENA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS REPRESENTED HARDENING OF PARTY'S POSITION TOWARD PRESIDENT BALAGUER, HE ALSO REITERATED THE PLEDGE OF PRD SUPPORT TO ANY GOVERNMENT ACTION ON EXPROPRI-
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ATION OF LANDS AND THE VIGOROUS APPLICATION OF AGRARIAN LAWS.

6. PERSONAL CONFLICTS ALSO CAME TO SURFACE NOV 20 IN FORM OF RESIGNATION OF CASIMIRO CASTRO AS HEAD OF PRD DEPARTMENT OF ORGANIZATIONAL AFFAIRS. EVENT BROUGHT TO PUBLIC ATTENTION SOME BASIC PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DIFFERENCES WITHIN PARTY LEADERSHIP. CASIMIRO'S SOMEWHAT PLODDING BUT

PERSEVERING EFFORTS TO BUILD SOLID ORGANIZATIONAL BASE HAVE MET SOME SUCCESS AND AS BYPRODUCT HAVE INCREASED CASIMIRO'S OWN STRENGTH WITHIN THE PARTY. PENA'S SPONTANEITY, HIS LACK OF INTEREST IN ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS AND HIS IMAGE AS A BRIGHT, ARTICULATE INTELLECTUAL DRAW HIM INTO UNAVOIDABLE CONFLICT WITH CASIMIRO. EACH POLE OF THE CONFLICT, BOTH FOR PERSONALITY AND TACTICAL REASONS, HAS TENDED TO ATTRACT OR REPEL OTHER PARTY LEADERS, THOSE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL TENDING TOWARD PENA, WITH CASIMIRO OBTAINING THE SUPPORT OF LOWER LEVEL PARTY WORKERS.

7. GHOST OF JUAN BOSCH HOVERS OVER ENTIRE SCENE OF DISCORD AND PRD SEEMS UNABLE TO EXORCISE IT ENTIRELY. THUS, PARTY MEMBERS WHO ARE OFFENDED, AS BOSCH WOULD BE, BY APPROACHES TO USG OBTAIN AS CONSOLATION THE ASSOCIATION WITH PIP AND THE SOMEWHAT GRATUITOUS PUBLIC CRITICISMS OF US ACTIONS. FREQUENCY OF PRD LEADERS' EVOCATION OF NAME OF BOSCH IN CONVERSATIONS IS CLUE TO TENACITY OF HIS INFLUENCE ALMOST A YEAR AFTER LEAVING PARTY. RECENT PRD ATTACKS ON USG AND EMBASSY, ALTHOUGH DESIGNED FOR CONSUMPTION OF DISSIDENT FORCES WITHIN PRD, MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTS TO PREEMPT AND PRECLUDE CRITICISM FROM BOSCH.

8. ONE OF BASIC PROBLEMS, OF COURSE, IS THAT PARTY HAS NOT PRODUCED LEADER OF BOSCH'S STATURE. PENA'S CREDENTIALS IN PRD ARE GOOD, BUT HE HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO EVOKE THE PUBLIC RESPONSES THAT JUAN BOSCH, WHATEVER HIS INTELLECTUAL AND PERSONAL SHORTCOMINGS, NEVER FAILED TO OBTAIN.
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